

Wigston Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1973

Incorporating a report on the
sanitary circumstances of the
District prepared by

H. DEAMER, M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector

R.W. KIND, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

ROBERT WILLIAM KIND M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

H. DEAMER M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

G.D. ENGLAND M.A.P.H.I.

Student Public Health Inspector

M. SMITH

Appointed

Additional Public Health Inspector August 1973

Technical Assistant

Wm. HARRISON Died January 1973

C. JARVIS Appointed April 1973

Clerk/Typist

MRS. S. LOOMES

Area in acres	3, 416
Rateable value at 1st April, 1973 ...	£3,433,792
Sum represented by penny rate	£33,700
Population(mid 1973)	31,650
Number of houses occupied	10,589
Additional occupied houses combined with shops	96
Number of Council Houses	1,448

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Figures for Births and Deaths are incomplete at present and no purpose can be served by citing incomplete data.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following infectious diseases were notified:-

Scarlet Fever	7
Infective Hepatitis	1
Measles	114
Food poisoning	6
Tuberculosis	2
Meningococcal Infection	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1

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A REPORT

ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE

WIGSTON URBAN DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1973

H. DEAMER, M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector

1.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supplied to the district by the Leicester Water Department has been satisfactory in quality. No complaints have been received of rust discolouration during the year.

Complaints have been received and passed on to the Water Department of intermittent inadequate pressure at the top of Mere Road and Newton Lane. The Department states that it will be some years before the laying of a new main from Oadby reservoir will be started, to increase the water pressure to these areas.

Fluoridation is not practised and the water is neither hard nor plumbo solvent.

Of the 31,650 persons living in the 10,685 dwellings in the district, all but 5 persons have an internal water supply. These five are in two isolated farm houses with a well water supply.

Examination of Water

(a) Mains Water

Forty eight samples taken for bacteriological examination were all reported satisfactory.

(b) Well Water

Two samples of well water taken for bacteriological examination, after filtration by a household candle filter were reported satisfactory.

(c) Swimming Bath Water

Forty five samples of water were taken from the Council's public swimming bath for bacteriological examination. Four samples contained coliform bacilli ranging from only one to seventeen but no Escherichia coliform per 100 millilitres.

2.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Every part of the urban district is sewered with the exception of the east part of Kilby Bridge.

Consequently only 46 dwellings are not drained into public sewers and more than half of these have water closets drained to septic tanks and filters or cesspools.

One septic tank and filter scheme was installed at a poultry/pig farm during the year.

3. CESSPOOLS AND CLOSETS

It is estimated that there are 13,000 water closets in the district. There are 18 cesspools and 14 septic tanks and filter plants at private premises.

4. OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963 AND SHOPS ACT, 1950

Work under these headings was stepped up during the year following the appointment of a Technical Assistant in April. The open market closed down completely, thus rendering unnecessary further action against a large number of the stallholders and the market operators for contraventions of the Shops Act 1950 section 47, relating to Sunday Trading.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act					
Premises	Number Registered	Inspections	Accidents Reported	Contraventions	
				Found	Remedied
Offices	46	39	1	23	24
Shops	186	241	5	165	173
Wholesale Shops	8	18		19	21
Catering Establishments	20	78		41	41
	260	376	6	248	259

Analysis of Contraventions

Contravention	Found	Remedied
Cleanliness	5	3
Temperature	34	34
Ventilation	8	1
Lighting	16	13
Sanitary Conveniences	15	13
Washing Facilities	7	4
Sitting Facilities	1	1
Floors, Passages & Stairs	6	4
First Aid Equipment	28	24
Other Matters	93	77
	213	174

Six non-fatal accidents were reported and investigated five at retail shops and one at a bank.

To prevent recurrence of two of the accidents guard rails were fitted to the sides of a loading dock and a protruding grid to a floor heating duct was re-set.

SHOPS ACT

Inspections

69

These figures relate specifically to inspections made under the Shops Act, 1950. Inspections made during visits under the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963 are not recorded under the heading.

Analysis of Contraventions

Contraventions	Found	Remedied
Half Day Closing	1	1
Young Persons Employment	2	1
Assistant Half Holiday	3	1
Posting of Abstract	1	0
	7	3

5. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

These services are under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department. Disposal is by tipping but it is anticipated that the incinerator at Whetstone will be commissioned in February, 1974.

6. CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

60 cars abandoned in the district or "over parked" on Council owned car parks were dealt with during the year. 27 were non - runners or wrecks. 26 informal notices and 3 section 20 notices were served. 34 cars were removed, 18 deposited at the Council's tip by owners and 8 removed by the local authority. £32 in removal etc. fees were recovered and 16 log books, the latter being sent to the registration authorities.

This work necessitated 139 visits including 18 visits to owners houses.

Thanks are again due to the County Council and City Motor Taxation Departments for their help in tracing the owners of abandoned vehicles.

7. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

928	recorded complaints were received
250	concerned infestations by rats and/or mice
678	concerned public health and housing matters
813	premises were visited concerning nuisances and defects

Visits and Inspections - initial and return

Accumulations	142
Animals kept	11
Animal Boarding Establishments	5
Civic Amenities Act	244
Clean Air Act	100
Dairies, Milk Shops and Milk Regulations	4
Dirty Premises	4
Disinfection	8
Ditches streams and ponds	6
Drainage/sewer work	338
Factories Act	72
Food and Drugs Act	10
Food Hygiene	649
Food complaints and inspections	94

Visits and Inspections - initial and return (continued)

Housing Act	597
Rats, mice & insects (including visits by rodent operator)	1881
Interviews:	
Telephone	880
Others	489
Food Inspection	162
Miscellaneous	374
National Assistance Act	14
Noise	192
Nuisances	528
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	376
Pet Animals Act	8
Samples: Ice -cream	68
Milk	8
Water (mains)	47
Water (swimming pool)	44
Water (wells)	1
Other	
Schools	4
Slaughterhouses & Knacker Yards	8
Water supply	16

NOTICES

INFORMAL

	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Public Health</u>
Outstanding 1st January 1973	-	41
Issued during year	1	189
Complied with during year	1	201
Outstanding 31st December 1973	-	29

STATUTORY

	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Public Health</u>
Outstanding 1st January 1973	-	-
Issued during year	-	1
Complied with during year	-	1
Outstanding 31st December 1973	-	-

The owner/occupier of a house proceeded against under the Public Health (recurring Nuisances) Act, 1969 was fined £5 and ordered to carry out repairs to a chimney stack, to abate a nuisance to the occupiers of other houses, by the emission of smoke, within 28 days.

8. REGULATED BUILDINGS & CARAVANS

There are no regulated buildings or licenced caravans or sites in the district.

9. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There are four licenced establishments in the district. All have been well conducted during the year.

10. ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT

The licenced kennel and cattery in Newton Lane, meet a local need for the boarding of cats and dogs, especially at holiday times and the reception of stray animals picked up by the police etc.

11. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1970

Number of food premises subject to these Regulations grouped in catergories of trade.

TRADE CARRIED ON	NO.	VISITS MADE	CONTRAVENTIONS	
			FOUND	REMEDIED
Baking	5	10	-	-
Butchers	16	34	-	-
Clubs	7	7	-	-
Canteens & Kitchens	32	32	7	7
Cafe & Restaurants	11	28	15	13
Dairies	2	3	-	-
Fishmongers - Wet & Fried	9	16	1	1
Flour & Sugar Confectionery	23	35	5	1
Greengrocers	18	43	11	12
Grocers & General Food Shops	47	89	32	27
Off Licences	14	22	10	-
Public Houses	22	39	34	41
	206	358	115	102

UNSOUND FOOD AND FOREIGN OBJECTS IN FOOD

Complaints received and investigated under this heading included:-

- 1) Vegetable matter in a milk bottle
- 2) Iron oxide in a packet of butter
- 3) Sticking plaster in a loaf of bread
- 4) Brush bristle in a loaf of bread
- 5) Metal in tin of Dutch canned meat
- 6) Filaria bi-color (tapeworm) in fish
- 7) Slug in a packet of peas
- 8) Mill moth and larvae in packet of flour
- 9) Plastic in bar of chocolate
- 10) Fly in a sausage roll
- 11) Glass in a bottle of cough mixture
- 12) Piece of metal from label in fresh beef
- 13) Mouldy loaf
- 14) Mouldy apple pie

- a) Court proceedings were instituted in respect of mouldy sausages and the vendor was fined £40.

All the other complaints were thoroughly investigated and informal action taken, as in no instance was it considered that the institution of legal proceedings was the best method of dealing with the matter or would be successful.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960/63.

Dairies and Distributors of Milk

	<u>Dairies</u>	<u>Distributors</u>
<u>Number on Register</u>	2	31

Bacteriological milk samples

Pasteurised	4
Sterilized	4

All the samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

Ice - cream

64 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

65 samples of ice-cream and 5 lollies were procured and reported upon by the bacteriologist as follows:

GRADE 1	51
GRADE 2	11
GRADE 3	3
GRADE 4	Nil

The 5 lollies had Ph. values below 4

Disposal of condemned food

The following foods were surrendered, condemned and disposed of by deep burial at the Council's Refuse Tip.

	Tons.	Cwt.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Meat at slaughterhouse	-	-	-	-
Meat at retail shops		1	0	8
Canned meat			2	10
Other canned foods		10	3	0
Frozen foods due to cabinet breakdown		1	3	16
Other foods		15	2	0
	1	9	3	6

Knacker Yard

There is one establishment in the district and it has been well conducted.

No contraventions of The Meat (Sterilization) Regulations, 1969 have been recorded at either the Knacker Yard or pet shops.

12. NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

182 visits were made in respect of complaints of nuisance at 13 premises.

These complaints related to noise from :-

- 1) Grain transporting ducts
- 2) Pop groups at two clubs
- 3) Factory dust extraction plant
- 4) Record players at two houses
- 5) Outworkers machines
- 6) Car repairs at a house
- 7) Air conditioning plant
- 8) Steam presses at two factories
- 9) Early morning starting of lorries
- 10) Supermarket refrigerator motors

13.

RODENT CONTROL - PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Department employs a trained Rodent Operator for 17½ hrs. per week. He is an old age pensioner and cannot work in excess of these hours. Consequently a great deal of rodent control has to be carried out by the Technical Assistant.

It is anticipated that with the amalgamation of the Oadby and Wigston U.D.C.'s the establishment will include a full time rodent operator with a motor van.

The destruction of rats, mice and wasps at dwellings is carried out free of charge but a charge is made in respect of industrial and commercial premises.

All premises and land owned by the Urban District Council and the public foul sewers are systematically inspected and treated against rodent and insect infestation.

294 visits were made to deal with 62 infestations by cat and bird lice, wasps nests and ants.

21 wasps nests were inside buildings and 41 in gardens, hedges, etc.

a) Sewer baiting

There are approximately 1450 sewer manholes in the district. During the year the sewers were treated for rats using fluoroacetamide as the poison and pin head oatmeal as the bait base.

b) Surface treatment

Under this heading 1061 inspections were made by the Rodent Operator at 250 properties. The approximate number of properties to be protected is 11,585.

No. of properties inspected as a result of:-

a) Notification	223
b) Survey under the Act etc.	27
	<u>250</u>

No. of properties found to be infested by:-

a) Rats	192
b) Mice	58
	<u>250</u>

Periodic reservoir infestations of rats have been dealt with on and adjacent to the Council's Refuse Tip and Civic Amenities Compound. It is anticipated that such infestations will cease early in 1974, when use of the tip and possibly the compound will cease.

14.

HOUSING

The Council's Slum Clearance programme is almost completed and no areas were declared during the year.

Houses Represented				Houses Demolished		Houses Closed	
Year	Clearance Areas	Individual Unfit	Total	Clearance Areas	Individual Unfit	Individual Unfit	Total
1956	11	1	12	-	-	2	2
1957	33	1	34	19	12	1	32
1958	33	16	49	20	-	2	22
1959	-	8	8	11	14	5	30
1960	-	4	4	26	4	-	30
1961	57	5	62	5	1	1	7
1962	-	2	2	3	3	-	6
1963	-	1	1	20	3	1	24
1964	56	-	56	-	-	-	-
1965	36	-	36	24	1	-	25
1966	21	8	29	54	1	1	56
1967	-	-	-	39	7	-	46
1968	-	2	2	12	1	-	13
1969	-	3	3	16	4	3	23
1970	61	2	63	4	10	-	14
1971	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
1972	39	-	39	-	-	-	-
1973	-	-	-	59	2	-	61
347				312	65	16	393

Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit houses elsewhere

Houses Demolished	Displaced During Year	
	Persons	Families
59	81	39
Houses Closed		
2	9	2

Inspection of dwelling houses during year 1972

- a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 918
- b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1970

Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied

After informal action by local authority 174

After formal action by local authority Nil

New Houses

Houses completed during the year by:-

1)	Local Authority	122
2)	Private Enterprise	151
3)	Housing Associations	0

273

Houses in course of erection at end of year by:-

1)	Local Authority	56
2)	Private Enterprise	164

220

Houses completed post war by:-

1)	Local Authority	1222
2)	Private Enterprise	6048

Total number of applications for
Council houses at end of year

378

Applications received during year

262

Housing Act, 1969

Standard Grants

Number of applications received

From owner/occupiers

36

From owners of rented houses

17

Number approved

52

Number of properties improved
during year

86

Grants paid during year

£11254

New bathrooms added

11

Improvement Grants

Number of Applications received:

From owner/occupiers

13

From owners of rented property

5

Number approved

18

Number of properties improved
during year

18

Grants paid

£4600

Qualification Certificates

Number of Applications	11
Certificates issued	26
Provisional certificates issued	7

15.

FACTORIES

There are 193 factories on the register

a) Inspections

Premises	No. of Inspections	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Notices Served
Factories with mechanical power	79	33	25	10
Factories without mechanical power	-	-	-	-
	79	33	25	10

b) Outworkers (Employed during the 6 months preceding August 1973)

No. of local firms employing outworkers	32 (36)
No. of local outworkers employed by such firms	138 (149)
No. of outworkers outside district employed by local firms.	158 (160)
No. of local outworkers employed by firms outside district	31 (37)
No. of outworkers in district	169 (186)

* Figures in brackets for 1972.

The various trades carried on at factories in the Urban Area are:-

Abrasives manufacturing
Adhesives and sealer manufacturing
Agricultural machine repairing
Babywear making
Baking
Bar-fitting and plastic fabricating
Biscuit manufacturing
Boot and shoe manufacturing, repairing and incidental trades
Building and joinery
Carton adaption and repairing
Concrete batching
Corset making
Cycle repairing
Cotton waste and bobbin recovery
Double glazing
Dyers and finishers
Drum and instrument making
Dress making
Electrical component making
Electro plating
Engineering - general - light - electrical
Football jersey and stocking making
Film laminating
Furniture repairing
Grain drying
Heating element making
Hosiery making, dyeing and finishing
Iron founding
Jersey fabric making
Knackery
Knitted outerwear making
Laundry
Leather factors and merchants
Loose cover making
Lighting and electronic engineering
Medical supplies distributing
Milk pasteurising
Motor vehicle repair and maintenance
Non-ferrous metal founding
Office machinery manufacturing
Paper baling
Plant hiring
Pattern making
Plastic moulding and colouring
Polystyrene tile colouring
Portable buildings manufacture
Pre-cast concrete manufacture
Printing
Photographic lithographers
Radio and television receiver repairing
Refrigeration engineering
Sausage, meat pie and cooked meat making and preparing
Scaffolding supplying and distributing
Spring manufacturing
Tailoring
Woodwork and case repairing
Wood last making
Worsted spinning
Wool packing
Waterways maintenance

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART 1

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities				
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	193	79	10	
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)				
Total	193	79	10	

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To HM Insp-ector	By HM Insp-ector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature ^c (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation(S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) a) Insufficient b) Unsuitable or defective c) Not separate for sexes	9	2			
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	9	2			

PART VII

Outwork (Sections 133 & 134)

	No. of outworkers in August list required by S. 133(1)c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served and prosecution
<u>Wearing Apparel</u> Making etc. Cleaning & Washing	157				

16. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956/58

Again I am pleased to report that there has been no serious industrial smoke problem in the district and that the number of domestic fireplaces and boilers burning bituminous coal, decline weekly, being replaced with appliances burning smokeless solid fuel and gas.

15 observations of emissions from 2 industrial chimneys and 2 demolition site bonfires were made during the year. Advice was given to the demolition contractors on methods of smokeless combustion and the materials to be disposed of other than by burning.

17. STAFF

The staff position during the whole of the year has been satisfactory. Mr. M.D. Smith, the Student Public Health Inspector, qualified and was appointed Additional Public Health Inspector in August.

The death of Mr. W. Harrison, Technical Assistant, in January deeply shocked all members of the staff.

Mr. Clive Jarvis was appointed as Technical Assistant in April.

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor to the
Wigston Urban District Council for the following report:

RAINFALL IN 1973

At: Wigston U.D.C. Sewage Disposal Works
In: The County of Leicester
Height of Top above Ground: 8"
Diameter of Gauge: 5"
Height of Ground above Sea Level: 249 feet
National Grid Reference: S.P. 5930. 9673

<u>Month</u>	<u>Total Depth mm.</u>	<u>Greatest fall in 24 hours mm.</u>	<u>No. of days with 0.2.mm or more 1.0.mm or more</u>	
January	25.0	8.9. on 20/1/73	19	6
February	23.8	7.0 on 12/2/73	13	7
March	21.4	4.2 on 1/3/73	10	6
April	55.1	11.0 on 1/4/73	16	12
May	71.0	13.5 on 28/5/73	15	12
June	121.0	51.4 on 26/6/73	8	6
July	77.1	21.8 on 6/7/73	14	9
August	18.1	5.5 on 4/8/73	10	5
September	39.6	13.5 on 18/9/73	10	8
October	31.4	8.2 on 10/10/73	11	9
November	27.0	7.2 on 14 & 28/11/73	10	5
December	37.6	10.8 on 7/12/73	13	12
Totals	548.1		149	97

Hottest day 16th August 1973 Temperature 90°F

Coldest day 16th February & 27th November Temperature 14°F

